

REMARKS

The Office action mailed on 18 August 2003 (Paper No. 4) has been carefully considered.

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action Summary states that claims 1 thru 19 are pending in the application. However, claims 1 thru 33 were filed in the application.

Paragraphs 5-7 of the Office Action Summary state that claims 1 thru 6 and 9 thru 17 are rejected, that claims 7 and 8 are allowed, and that claims 18 thru 31 are objected to. There is no statement as to the status of claims 32 and 33 in the Office Action Summary or in the text (pages 2-10) of the Office action. It is requested that a revised Office action be issued, indicating the status of claims 32 and 33.

As stated above, paragraph 5 of the Office Action Summary states that claims 7 and 8 are allowed, but paragraph 9 on page 7 of the Office action states that claims 7 and 8 are "objected to". It is presumed that claims 7 and 8 are allowed since claim 7 is independent and claim 8 depends from claim 7, but clarification is requested.

Paragraph 7 of the Office Action Summary states that claims 18 thru 31 are objected to, while paragraph 8 on page 7 of the Office action omits claims 29 thru 31, stating that claims 7, 8 and 18 thru 28 are objected to. However, page 8 of the Office action does contain

a statement of reasons for allowability of claims 30 and 31. Therefore, it is presumed that claims 30 and 31 are also merely objected to and allowable if rewritten in independent form, but clarification is requested.

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action Summary states that claims 20 thru 24 are withdrawn from consideration, but no grounds for withdrawal have been stated, and paragraph 7 of the Office Action Summary and paragraph 8 of the Office action indicate that claims 20 thru 24 have been examined and, in fact, found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Correction of the Office action is requested.

Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that a revised Office action be issued so as to state on the record the status of claims 32 and 33, and to rectify the various inconsistencies stated above.

It is also requested that the period for response be restarted as of the mailing date of the revised Office action and/or clarifying communication.

No fee is incurred by this Request.

Respectfully submitted,



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